

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Satoshi Seo et al.	Art Unit	: 1774
Serial No.	: 10/622,504	Examiner	: Dawn Garrett
Filed	: July 21, 2003	Confirmation No.:	4688
Title	: MATERIAL FOR AN ELECTROLUMINESCENCE ELEMENT AND ELECTROLUMINESCENCE ELEMENT USING THE SAME		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF OCTOBER 12, 2005

In reply to the Office Action of October 12, 2005, applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application, with claims 1-22, 27 and 30 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-22 have been withdrawn from consideration, leaving claims 3, 14 and 23-32, including independent claims 3, 14, 27 and 30, under consideration.

Claims 3, 14 and 23-32 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Bernius (U.S. 2002/0153523) in view of Kono (U.S. 5,917,693) and Nakayama (U.S. 5,943,154). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because neither Bernius, Kono, Nakayama, nor any proper combination of the three describes or suggests a buffer layer for an electroluminescence element that includes a polymer compound containing a conjugate on at least one of a main chain and a side chain, as recited in each of independent claims 3, 14, 27 and 30.

The rejection asserts that Kono teaches it is known in the art to dope polyaniline with TCNQ to form an electrically conductive polyaniline, and that, as a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have doped the polyaniline taught by Bernius with TCNQ. Applicant respectfully disagrees, because Kono is directed to a secondary electric cell, and does not describe or suggest that polyaniline doped with TCNQ may be used for an electroluminescence element, or for a buffer layer of the electroluminescence element. As such, Kono's mere use of polyaniline doped with TCNQ in a secondary electric cell would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the polyaniline of Bernius.

As set forth in the application at page 3, line 7 to page 4, line 2, damage to an electroluminescence element by water and moisture is reduced when a polymer compound is doped with TCNQ since an organic solvent can be used instead of water. However, neither Kono nor Bernius recognizes that a characteristic of an electroluminescence element may be improved by replacing a strong acid, such as is taught by Berinius, with TCNQ.

In addition, Nakayama, which is directed to a light control element, likewise fails to describe or suggest employing a polymer compound containing a conjugate on at least one of a main chain and a side chain, as recited in claims 3, 14, 27 and 30. For example, like Kono, Nakayama does not recognize that a characteristic of an electroluminescence element may be improved by replacing a strong acid, such as is taught by Berinius, with, for example, TCNQ.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

No fees are believed due. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 12, 2006

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